

Starting the production of the National Catalogue of Innovations in Albania



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IDEASS activities are ongoing in Albania since many years, in strict collaboration with the United Nations programmes for territorial development. An Albanian innovation of great interest is promoted by the IDEASS International Catalogue: *The Integrated Pest Management Package on Olive for Olive Fruit Fly Control*, by Josef Tedeschini of the Plant Protection Laboratory of the Agriculture University of Tirana.

To strengthen these activities, the UNDP-managed ART Programme took the initiative to appoint the NGO *B.A.ZH*, which already collaborates with the IDEASS International Secretariat, to start the systematic production of the National Catalogue of Innovations of Albania.

B.A.ZH is a Non-Governmental Organization which aims to promote research activities and carry out development cooperation projects in the fields of environmental protection, infrastructure, health, agriculture, food farming, processing and research, social services, education and youth development, culture, training and development planning, in order to enhance local institutions, in collaboration with local authorities, Universities, NGOs, International Organizations and other agencies.

To start the production activities of the Catalogue of Innovations, the *B.A.ZH* NGO established a contact with two important Albanian institutions, in order to receive their inputs on the innovative technologies and methodologies for human development implemented in the country. In particular, the *B.A.ZH* NGO established collaboration with:

- The Albanian Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation. The aim of this structure is to promote technology and innovation in order to establish an open and friendly society in terms of innovation capacities; enhance the important role of universities as centers of technological promotion; identify national priorities (long-term and short-term) and drafting a national plan; support of sub-financing research especially in some key areas, such as public health, agricultural production and environmental management; support research and technological development through international cooperation and support of European Union, World Bank etc.
- The Academy of Sciences of Albania. The Academy, which prior the reform of the system of science and technology (2008), coordinated the Institutes and research centres of Albania, maintains its role as academic authority of great importance for all the structures that deal with science and technology in the country. In addition, the Academy has strengthened its collaboration with national scientific academies in the region and is actually member of several international scientific organisms such as: All European Academies (ALLEA); Inter-Academic Panel (IAP); Academy of Mediterranean; European Academy of



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Arts; World Academy for Human Rights; Center of Studies of Countries of the Black Sea; Inter-Academic Council for South-eastern Europe.

In preliminary meetings it was suggested to establish an inter-institutional working table at the Academy of Sciences for the identification of Albanians Innovations for Human Development. The Academy of Sciences, which is also represented in the Albanian Agency for National Research, Technology and Innovation, will have an important role in inter-institutional coordination, encouraging the active participation of other important actors of the country, as the Centre for Development and Innovation of the European University of Tirana, the Technology Center of the University of Vlora, the Albanian Foundation for Local Development Capacities, the Technology Transfer Centers organized with the collaboration of different sectoral ministries.

Once established formal collaboration agreements with the UNDP ART Programme, the B.A.ZH NGO will start the operational phase of work for the production of the first Catalogue of innovations for Human Development in Albania.

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